

# Class Act

King County Solid Waste Division's School Recycling Program Newsletter

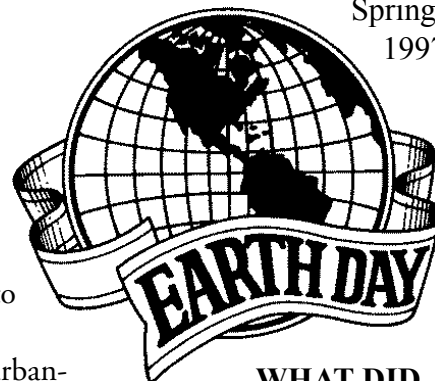
Volume 2, Number 2

Spring  
1997

## Grants Available for Urban Reforestation and Habitat Restoration



The Wildlife Program in King County's Water and Land Resource Division is offering grants to help fund urban reforestation and habitat restoration projects on the urban side of the urban-rural line of King County. Any organization, including schools, are eligible if they work within this geographic scope. The program has between \$40,000 and \$90,000 in grant funds to distribute this year, and successful applicants will have three years to complete their projects. Applications are due July 15, 1997 and grant monies will be available in 1998. In-stream restoration work is not eligible. For more information and application forms, please contact Kate Stenberg at (206) 296-7266 or email at [kate.stenberg@metrokc.gov](mailto:kate.stenberg@metrokc.gov).



**WHAT DID  
YOU DO FOR  
EARTH DAY?**

## Tailored EPA Information Packs for Teachers

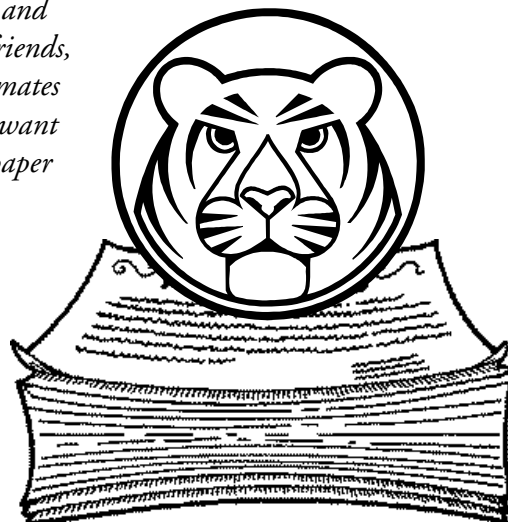
The Environmental Protection Agency can provide grade-specific and interest-specific packets containing classroom activities, posters, brochures, and basic environmental information. For more information or to order a packet, call Region X Public Information Center at (206) 553-1896 or 1-800-424-4EPA.

## Tame the Paper Tiger!

During *Recycle Week '96*, a regionwide essay contest focused on the necessities and benefits of recycling and reusing paper. Called "Tame the Paper Tiger," the contest drew many entries, and several students from Bellevue wrote winning essays on their ideas on how to reuse paper and paper products in school

and at home. First place winner, Alex Rahimi, at the International School wrote "*Take the road not taken and take a few more seconds to go to the recycle center, and drop some paper off or walk to the recycle bin, you are already helping.*"

*Spread the word and encourage your friends, family, and classmates to recycle. If we want to cut down on paper waste in our schools and homes, I'm sure we will have a much more beautiful world."*



## Funds Available for Environmental Action Projects

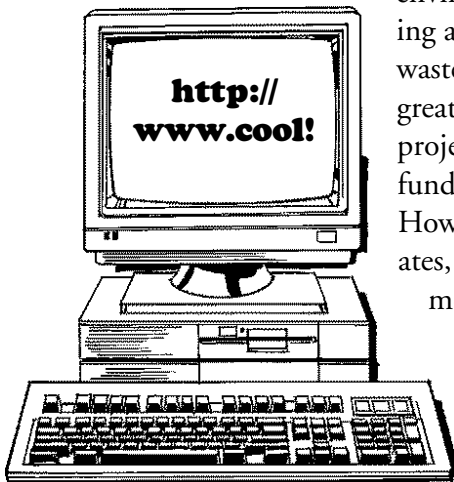
Mini-grants of \$50 - \$200 for conducting action projects are available for King County teachers who have completed the Hazards on the Homefront training. Grants may be used for a variety of projects as long as they focus on activities that

educate others outside of the classroom. The March 31, 1997 deadline has been extended to May 15, 1997.



in King County's Green Team program that encourages children to conserve natural resources and to recognize and use less toxic products to reduce hazardous wastes. This year, Ms. Reiter received a mini-grant to make this curriculum a school-wide program by providing a series of five after-school classes and one field trip. Topics included creating Green Cleaning Kits, constructing and maintaining a worm bin, and monitoring a stream. Specific objectives were to provide a community service project for students, to develop computer skills by designing a Web page on the Internet, to promote science and use math skills, and to enhance the

environment by teaching about hazardous waste. This is only one great example of projects that can receive funding. Call Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates, (206) 583-0655 for more information.



## Prizes for Household Hazardous Waste Action Projects Still Available

Prizes and recognition are available for classrooms that have used the *Hazards on the Homefront* Guide and that have completed and reported their action projects. Companies such as Taco Time, Fred Meyer, Subway, Odeon Cineplex and others have donated coupons for free items and gift certificates. Many prizes are still available so call Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates, at (206) 583-0655 to report your creative and successful action projects.

## Green Teams Teaching the Three Rs

The King County Solid Waste Division's Elementary School Program continues with the formation of many new Green Teams. A Green Team is a group of students that wants to prevent waste at school, at home, and in their community. For example, West Mercer Elementary School students are decorating grocery bags to remind customers to **recycle**. Students at Mirror Lake Elementary School are recycling all aluminum and plastics from their lunches

and donating the money raised to a local charity. Kay Moilanen's class at Campbell Hill Elementary School is teaching others to **re-use** paper by making scratchpads from used

school paper and by using old jeans to cover boxes to make "designer" storage containers. Students at the Valley Christian School are working with the school cook to plan a "Waste Free Lunch Day" to

**reduce** waste. Way to go, Green Teams! If you're interested in getting information on how to become a Green Team, contact René Alexander at Triangle Associates, (206) 583-0655.



## The Wiz Kids are Back

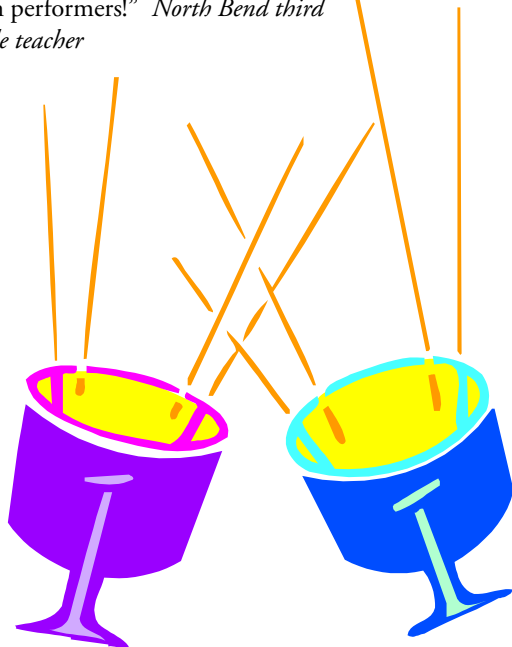
The *Wiz Kids at Home*, King County's latest assembly on waste prevention, is being scheduled for the 1997-98 school year. The County's fourth assembly for elementary school moves students beyond recycling to identifying wasteful packaging, choosing products made from recycled materials, and planning a "least waste lunch" in an entertaining game show format. Here are just a few of the positive comments we have received:

"The workshop was dynamic! It was fast paced, lively, and entertaining. There was no down time or lulls that could lose the flow of the assembly. The kids loved it. They were really excited about reusing, rethinking or recycling. It was a great kick off to our own recycling program. P.S. We haven't seen any of those lunchables since the assembly! Thanks!" *Meadow Ridge, first grade teacher*

"It was outstanding. It is better and better every year!" *Sierra Heights second grade teacher*

"My kids and I really enjoyed it. I'm a recycle fanatic and I even learned something!" *Meadow Ridge fifth grade teacher*

"I was very impressed with the Wiz Kids assembly! It was professional, informative, interesting and very appealing. I hope you'll return! My compliments to both performers!" *North Bend third grade teacher*

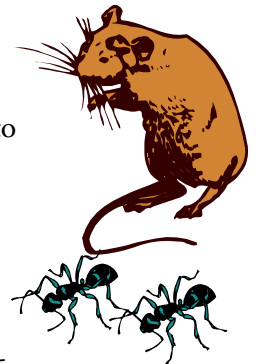


The assembly is presented for free at elementary schools throughout King County (except those within the Seattle City limits) and can be followed-up with free classroom workshops on a variety of subjects from hands-on reuse to identifying wasteful packaging to becoming a Green Team.

To receive more information or to sign up, contact Shannon Healey, Triangle Associates, Inc., by phone (206) 583-0655 or email [trijen@aol.com](mailto:trijen@aol.com). Scheduling for the 1997-1998 school year begins in May and goes quickly!

## Integrated Pest Management in Schools

The Department of Ecology has begun a project designed to promote awareness and use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices in schools. IPM involves the use of multiple methods to deal with pests such as insects, rodents, and weeds. The object of IPM is not to eliminate every pest, but rather to reduce or prevent their effects by using reliable, cost-efficient, and environmentally safe methods that include physical, mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical techniques. In applying IPM, emphasis is not on a rigid treatment schedule, but on regular monitoring to determine if and when treatments are needed. Chemical controls are used only as a last resort, and in the least toxic formulation that is effective.



Because many schools routinely apply pesticides to playing fields, school grounds, classrooms, locker rooms, gymnasiums and cafeterias, they are the focus of this Ecology project. The health and environmental effects of certain chemicals are a concern to everyone, especially when children are involved. Studies show that children can be particularly

*Continued*

sensitive to exposure to harmful substances.

Ecology has trained volunteers who will visit a number of public schools in the state. In King County, 20 schools in the Highline school district and 20 schools in the Lake Washington school district have been identified as participants in the program so far. The volunteers will introduce and distribute information on Integrated Pest Management concepts to maintenance staff at the school and at the district level. During each school visit, school staff will receive extensive materials on IPM basics, sample policies, facts about pests and pesticides, and IPM references and resources.

For more information about the Integrated Pest Management in Schools project, or if your school is interested in having a volunteer visit, contact Susan Elderkin at (360) 407-6745.

This would make a great action project for participants in the Hazards on the Homefront program.

## News to Share? Tell us How You Spent Earth Day

*If you have stories you want to share in future issues of the Class Act, send them to: Jennifer Howell, Triangle Associates, Inc., 811 First Ave #255, Seattle, WA 98104. The next deadline is May 31, 1997.*



King County Solid Waste Division  
*Class Act Newsletter - Spring 1997*  
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Seattle, WA 98104-2637



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## King County Solid Waste Division

*Insert to Class Act Newsletter - Spring 1997*

# There's More Under Your Sink Than You Know

The average family has more than 60 hazardous products in their homes, including household cleaners, automotive products, paints, solvents, and pesticides. Each year, the Seattle Poison Center receives over 70,000 calls from people reporting incidents of hazardous household products being spilled or swallowed. Many of these cases involve children, and one in ten children under the age of six requires emergency medical treatment due to accidental exposure to household hazardous wastes.

Household hazardous waste not only contaminates our homes, but the outside environment as well. Each year approximately 6,000 tons of hazardous waste are produced in King County, one thousand of which are dumped directly into sewers, posing a serious threat to Puget Sound. For example, two million gallons of used motor oil end up in Puget Sound every year. Supertanker spill? No, just ordinary people changing their oil and pouring it down storm drains, or not fixing a leaky car.



## How King County Teachers and Students Are Helping

Teachers are taking steps to alleviate these problems by teaching children about household hazardous waste and its consequences. At Redmond Junior High, Heather Haworth taught

her students how to read product labels to identify hazardous products as part of an Introductory Physical Science course. The students made posters, used overhead transparencies, and prepared skits to present the information to their peers. Both the learning and teaching became the students' responsibilities. At Maywood Middle School, Denise Kersten's students, in a unit on poison and first aid, identified popular chemicals that look similar to safe, everyday products and learned about safer alternatives. Fifth grade teacher Julie Martin at Christa McAuliffe Elementary School incorporated teaching about household hazardous waste into a unit in which students were designing space stations. The students had to think about living in closed spaces, obtaining resources, and keeping their environment a safe clean place.

### *The Hazards on the Homefront Program*

These teachers are just a few of the 170 the King County Solid Waste Division has trained on how to incorporate household hazardous waste into school subjects. The Division, as part of the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program, developed a teacher's guide, *Hazards on the Homefront*, to make this easy for teachers. The guide introduces students to topics such as label reading, health and environmental effects of common products, and safer substitutes. Many of the lessons readily tie into the goals of the new education standards that ask students to apply academic skills and subjects to real life situations.

The County also provides free workshops during which teachers learn about household hazardous

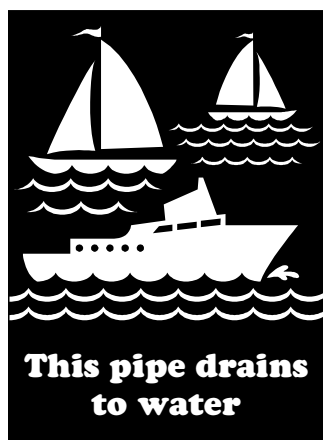


waste and how to present this subject in a cohesive and comprehensive manner to students of different levels. Teachers are shown several examples of classroom activities and receive ready-to-use materials including overheads, sample labels, and plenty of resources. In addition, after the workshop, project staff follow up with calls and information, and teachers can request to have a speaker come for free to their classroom.

## Real-Life, Hands-On Experiences

An optional part of the program is to do action projects with students to reinforce lessons learned and to apply those lessons to real experiences. For example, fifth graders at Campbell Hill Elementary in Renton stenciled storm drains with messages to increase public awareness about the fact that waste that is dumped down drains eventually ends up in Puget Sound. The class also designed a colorful mural about clean water that was painted on a Metro bus shelter. A Special Education class at Nathan Hale High School taped a video that instructed others about safer cleaning substitutes such as baking soda, vinegar, and castile soap. One Beaver Lake Middle School student created a brochure and map on recycling motor oil that has been distributed throughout Issaquah. Action projects offer a great opportunity to become involved in and enhance your community.

Teachers are lauding the program not only for the high quality and significance of its content, but also for the interest and enthusiasm it generates in

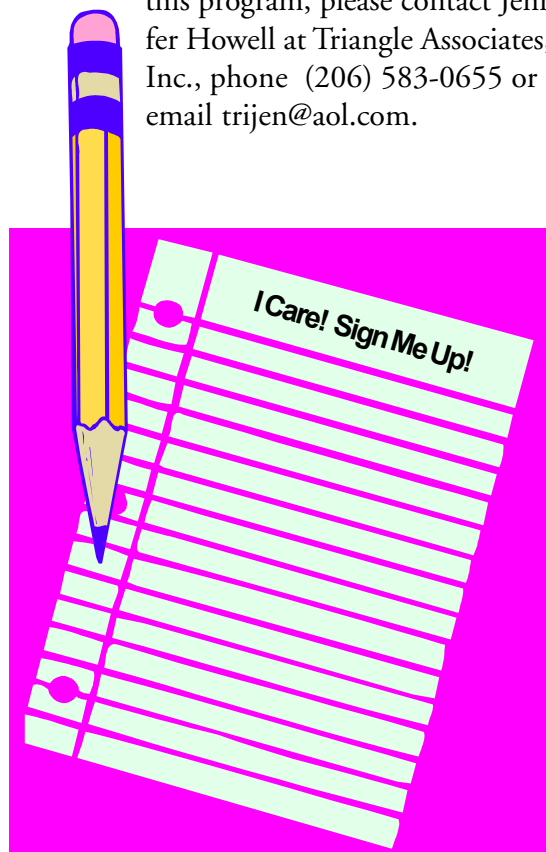


students. Alice Alcorn of Kent stated "I am very excited about this curriculum because...the content is important for the long range. Citizenship skills and thinking skills are best developed in situations where students deal with real problems and where their actions can make a difference in the world. It was the first time this year that I heard that great "cooperative buzz" that lets you know that interest and energy are high and that students are working well together."

## How to sign up

The training, which was first piloted during the 1994-95 school year, is offered four to five times a year. Workshops are open to all King County teachers and in coordination with co-sponsoring school districts or programs such as MESA. The program is looking for sites and co-sponsors for the 1997-98 school year. If you have ideas, would like to register, or want more information about

this program, please contact Jennifer Howell at Triangle Associates, Inc., phone (206) 583-0655 or email [trijen@aol.com](mailto:trijen@aol.com).



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